

Dutch Reformed Church
Located on the east side of U.S.
Rte. 209, .2 miles north of
State Rte. 739
Dingmans Ferry, Delaware Township
Pike County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1273

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. PA-1273

DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH

Location:

East side of U.S. Rte. 209, .2 miles north of state Rte. 739, in Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Oingman's Ferry, Delaware Township, Pike County, Pennsylvania.

USGS Culvers Gap Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 18.510930.4563580

Present Use:

Private Residence.

Significance:

Completed in 1851, the Dutch Reformed Church of Upper Wallpack is notable for its fine Greek Revival exterior.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1850. A granite date stone set into a recess in the entablature of the portico commemorates the construction of the Church in 1850.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners: This is an incomplete chain of title. Reference is to the Records Room of the County Clerk and Registrar, Pike County, Pennsylvania, unless otherwise noted.

1851 Deed: 16 January 1851

Recorded 11 March 1851

Book 19, page 48.

Martin W. Dingman and Belinda, ux.,

to

Reverend Robert Pitts of Lehman Township, John J. Westbrook of Delaware Township, Joseph Vanauken of Monroe County, Daniel Depue and Avert Rosencrance of Wallpack Township, Daniel E. Vanetten of Delaware Township, Peter Schuman of Lehman Township, and Calvin Decker and Elias Cop of Wallpack Township "...who are the trustees or Consistory of the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church of Wallpack Congregation..."

Consideration: \$25.00.

Acreage: 4,000 square feet.

Grant: The tract of land "...is part of a larger tract of land commonly called Dingman's Choice and lies on the east side of the State Road leading from Oingman's Choice to Milford and opposite the Delaware Academy...", "...to and for the only proper use and behalf of the said

parties of the second part and their successors
in office for the use of the aforesaid Church..."

- 1913 Deed: 10 December 1913 Recorded 29 April 1914
Book 67, page 455.
Frances B. Newburn and Hervey B. Newburn of Stratford,
Connecticut
to
Trustees of the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church of
Wallpack Congregation, the Minister and William Dusenberry,
John B. Rosencrance and Frank Stoll, Elders, and William
Courtright, Deacon.
Consideration: \$5.00.
Acreage: 4,000 square feet.
Grant: Probably a release of rights to the title by
the heirs of Martin W. Dingman.
- 1959 Deed: 10 November 1959 Recorded 16 February 1960
Book 151, page 249.
Frank Stoll, sole surviving trustee of the Protestant
Reformed Dutch Church of Wallpack Congregation
to
Dudley Maddern of 110-45 Queens Boulevard, Forest Hill, New
York City.
Consideration: \$5,000.
Acreage: (1) 80 perches (2) 4,000 square feet.
Grant: "Being the same premises conveyed by Martin
W. Dingman and Belinda, ux., to Rev. Robert
Pitts, et. al.... the Trustees or Consistory of
the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church of Wallpack
Congregation... and their successors in
office..."
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: W. F. Brodhead was contractor
for the erection of the Church. It is not yet clear who actually
designed the structure. The building committee, which
undoubtedly selected the design and handled the funding, was
composed of John I. Westbrook, Albert S. Stoll, and John Van
Gordon.
5. Original plan and construction: Plans for the Church are said to
have begun in 1837. After twelve years, and a revision of plans,
the Reverend R. Pitts, and John I. Westbrook were appointed to
raise funds for the construction of the Church at the cost of
about \$1,300.
6. Alterations and additions: When the Church was sold in 1959, it
was converted by its new owner, Dudley Maddern, into a private
residence. The exterior remains essentially as built except for
a shed addition to the rear, but the interior has been
extensively remodeled.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The need for a Dutch Reformed Church was established in 1837 when plans were initially drawn up. After twelve years and a series of revisions, the Church was finally erected in 1850-51. The congregation from Dingman's Ferry and Peters Valley, New Jersey, formed the Upper Wallpack District of the Dutch Reformed Church and provided funds for its construction.

Before its last service in the summer of 1952, the Church was used as a school on several occasions. When the Dingman Academy, located across the street, burned in 1870, classes were moved to the Church where they continued until the Academy was rebuilt two years later. When the Academy burned a second time in 1898, classes were again temporarily held in the Church.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Greening, Helen, Interview, 16 August 1971 Milford, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Greening is the Curator of the Pike County Historical Society.

Souder, Norman, "Historic Structures, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area", Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Washington, D.C., National Park Service, July 1967.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Cary, John, History of the Proposed Tocks Island National Recreation Area, National Parks Service, United States Department of Interior, Contract No. 14-10-0529-2738 F/P.

Mathews, Alfred, History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties, Pennsylvania, Philadelphia: R. T. Peck, 1886.

Stickney, Charles E., "The Old Mine Road", The Wantage Recorder, Sussex, New Jersey. See number 18 for 10 November 1911.

Prepared by Lynn Beebe Weaver
Project Historian
Historic American
Buildings Survey
August 1, 1971

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The white clapboard church is a simple Greek Revival structure, a pleasing example of a small rural building of the period. (Souder)
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The original building measures 33' (three-bay front) x 51' (three bays). The extension on the rear measures 15' x 20'. The building is two stories high.
2. Foundations: Random rubble stone.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The Church is of wood frame with 6" exposed white clapboard siding.
4. Structural system framing: Wooden beam framing system. The gabled roof allows for an arch ceiling and clear span of the major space.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies: A portico extends across the entire face of the gable front projecting 8' from the face of the building. It is supported by four excellent wood Doric columns, capped by a tympanum of flush, wide board siding.
6. Chimneys: There are two small brick chimneys extending above the roof eave, one on the north and one on the south wall. These were probably built to accommodate stoves for heating.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Two four-panel doors flank a large central window in front.
 - b. Windows and shutters: There are five thirty-over-thirty-light double hung sash windows; two on each side and one centered on the front elevation. Two side windows, fifteen-over-fifteen sash, are located on each side, closer to the front. These smaller windows are stacked, the second story window extending into the cornice fascia.

There are two casement windows at the second level in front, but these are not original.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roof with a pedimented front is covered with a standing-seam roof.
- b. Cornice, eaves: A simple entablature caps the columns and extends along the sides.

C. Description of Interior:

The interior was inaccessible at the time of the site visit. From all appearances the interior has been altered to accommodate interior partitions so that the building might be used as a residence.

D. Site and Surroundings:

1. General setting: The building faces almost due east and is set back off Highway Route 209 about 75'. A circular drive swings in front of the building.
2. Outbuildings: One outbuilding directly north of church is long and narrow in shape, similar to a carriage building, it has clapboard siding and slate roof. It contains casement windows like those on second floor front of the church.

Prepared by John M. McRae
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
August, 1971

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in cooperation with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, supervised by the National Park Service and funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The project, which extended from 1967 to 1971, was under the general direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS. This structure was measured and drawn in the summer of 1971 under the direction of John M. McRae (University of Florida), Project Supervisor, student assistant architects, by Jack L. Finglass (Carnegie-Mellon University), Martin J. Rosenblum (University of Illinois), architects, and Stephen J. Kirk (University of Kansas), in the HABS field office at Columbia, New Jersey in the project area of the Tocks Island Reservoir and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The historical data was written by Lynn Beebe Weaver, project historian, in 1971. This written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Kent R. Newell of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by George A. Eisenman in 1970.